



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 13, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Mountain Valley Stone, Inc., Browns Canyon Quarry, M/043/019, Summit County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 10, 2002
Time of Inspection: 8:00 a.m.
Conditions: clear, cool
Participants: Robert Hicken, Jonathan Meyers and Tony Branca, Mountain Valley Stone; Brian Balls and Brent Christensen, Summit Engineering Group; Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To review status of mitigation pursuant to the May 14, 2002 Notice of Non-Compliance.

Observations:

We began the inspection by discussing the status of the site. The operator indicated that Summit Engineering has been retained to resurvey the property line and to revise the permit maps accordingly. Summit Engineering will also establish the property boundary between Mountain Valley Stone and Star Stone Quarries, Inc. to the east. As we inspected the site, we discussed revising the permit boundary. We discussed the criteria of an amendment vs. a revision of the plan, and the need to republish for a permit revision. The operator wanted to expand the disturbance to the north of the existing dump, to within 20 feet of the riparian area. The operator was informed that he needs to maintain a minimum 100 foot buffer between the operations and the riparian area, since riparian areas are considered unique habitat features, and if disturbed, would probably require republication, which could delay permit approval for about 60 days.

As we walked around the site, wooden lathes were observed that had been placed by the previous surveyor to mark the potential permit boundary. However, as we discussed the ramifications of expanding into unique areas (riparian zone), the operator indicated that he would readjust the proposed disturbed area.

Another issue discussed as we inspected the site, was the acreage to be disturbed. The current plan calls for a total disturbed area of 17.5 acres. We discussed the criteria for determining whether a permit change would be an amendment or a revision. Because there are no permanent structures at this site, the cost of reclamation per each acre is very similar. Therefore, the 25% change in

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the bond amount would be exceeded if the acreage is increased by more than 25%. This gives the operator about 4.5 acres that he could increase his bonded acreage without meeting the bond change criteria for a revision.

We discussed the soil issues, and the need for protecting the soils that will be used for reclamation. The operator was informed that even if the adjacent borrow areas are not disturbed at this time, they still need to be included in the disturbed acreage and bonded, since they would be disturbed if site reclamation was initiated. It was also discussed that leaving the soils in place and protecting these areas was preferred to salvaging the soils at this time and stockpiling them.

The final issue discussed was the reclamation surety. The operator was informed that if he apply the cost per acre to any additional acreage, that it would be acceptable.

Conclusion:

Summit Engineering indicated that they could have the fieldwork completed this week and could have the revised maps and plans completed before July 1, 2002. The map(s) will identify a life of mine permit area as well as a five-year permit boundary for bonding. The permit would be amended from time to time as needed, showing new areas to be disturbed within the life of mine area, and areas that have been reclaimed. Adjustment to the surety would be made if needed. The permit area will be marked with t-posts, as well as the property boundary.

As we concluded the inspection, the operator requested that DOGM inspect the site at least once, and preferably twice each year. I informed him that our goal is to inspect active large mining operations on an annual basis; I could not guarantee more frequent inspections.

Bonding Note:

The reclamation surety will be in the form of a letter of credit. Mr. Hicken indicated that he would have the bank send us a draft by Wednesday, June 12, 2002. His goal is to have it finalized by Friday, June 14, 2002. On June 11, 2002, Mr. Scott Thompson of Key Bank called to request the proper forms for establishing the letter of credit for Mountain Valley Stone. He indicated that a \$75,000.00 letter of credit has been proposed.

jb
cc: Robert Hicken, Mountain Valley Stone
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